

What does it mean to be best of best?

By Col. Doug Richardson
48th Fighter Wing commander

Saturday evening, I was fortunate enough to have the honor of presenting the Liberty Wing's annual awards for best airman, NCO, first sergeant, senior NCO and company grade officer. Let's consider for a moment just how spectacular these achievement are.

To win top honors as the Liberty Wing's

best for 1996 means a person competes against the finest the Air Force has to offer. That's no small feat! Day in and day out, our people get the mission done despite long days, deployments, exercises and numerous operational commitments.

Everyday the best in the 48th rise to the challenge and keep our aircraft flying, our troops fed and our families well taken care of. In the company of the elite, it takes a special person to rise above their peers and be the best of the best.

In 1996, the Liberty Wing's best were SrA. Stephen Bridges, TSgt. Donnie Hagan, SMSgt. Thomas Puzzo, SMSgt. William Thompson, and Capt. Kim Schmidt. As a group, they are a snapshot of the excellence within this fighter wing.

The challenges of a combat fighter wing are enormous. The commitment and sacrifice demanded for service to our nation and her allies is tough at times.

But the victory we share in honoring the Liberty Wing's best reminds us all of who we are and what we stand for. The men and women we honor for this prestigious distinction hold the torch of the Liberty Wing high, for all others to see. They are leaders, but more importantly, they are members of the world's greatest team — the 48th Fighter Wing. To the annual award winners, I and the rest of the 48th salute you.

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<http://www.lakenheath.af.mil/jet48.htm>

On the cover

Photo by A1C Robert Gerlach
The Liberty Wing's annual award winners: (from left) SrA. Stephen Bridges, Airman of the Year; TSgt. Donnie Hagan, NCO of the Year; SMSgt. Thomas Puzzo, Senior NCO of the Year; SMSgt. William Thompson, First Sergeant of the Year and Capt. Kim Schmidt, Company Grade Officer of the Year.

Don't play runway roulette

By SSgt. Samuel Durso
Control tower watch supervisor

RAF Lakenheath has experienced several runway intrusions during the past year, mostly due to people not being aware of the rules that govern flightline driving or being unfamiliar with the layout of the airfield.

To enter the runway or the area within 150 feet of the runway, known as the controlled movement area, people must first establish radio contact with the control tower and get permission. Failure to contact the tower jeopardizes the safety of the flying community.

Unit vehicle-control managers are responsible for ensuring all people assigned to their units receive proper flightline driving training. Training includes a daytime and nighttime tour of the airfield.

Rules governing flightline driving are outlined in RAF Lakenheath Instruction 24-301 and must be adhered to at all times when

operating a vehicle on the flightline. First-time offenders will lose their flightline driving privileges for 30 days.

During this time, that individual will not be able to operate any vehicle on the flightline and will be counseled by the vice wing commander. The squadron commander, supervisor, and flightline vehicle-control manager will be expected to explain why the violation occurred and what will be done to ensure it doesn't happen again. Second-time offenders will lose their flightline driving privileges for the remainder of their tour here.

The instruction says that people who have a need to enter the controlled movement area must first obtain permission from the airfield management chief or designated representative.

If approval is given, they must then establish two-way radio contact with the air traffic control tower for permission to proceed prior to entering the control movement area.

For more information on flightline driving, call airfield management at Ext. 3573.

Action Lines

The Action Line is your direct link to me for complaints, suggestions or comments. It's not intended to replace the chain of command. When normal command and agency channels haven't been able to resolve your concerns, call Ext. 2324, fax (Ext. 5367), e-mail (Action_Line), distribution (48 FW/PA), mail (48 FW/PA, Unit 5210 Box 215 APO AE 09464-0215), or hand carry your Action Line to the public affairs office (Bldg. 1085). You may remain anonymous; however, to receive a reply, leave your name, unit, duty or home phone number and full APO mailing address. Names will be kept confidential.



48th Fighter Wing commander

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- ☐ 48th Contracting Squadron: Ext. 7186.
- ☐ 48th Supply Squadron: Ext. 3240, ask for TSgt. Frankie Harris.
- ☐ 48th Medical Group: patient advocate Ext. 2840.
- ☐ 48th Comptroller Flight: on electronic mail, type "finance" or call Ext. 1851.
- ☐ 48th Civil Engineer Squadron: Ext. 5546.
- ☐ 48th Communications Squadron: Ext. 4979.
- ☐ 48th Security Police Squadron: Ext. 1412, ask for CMSgt. Dan Stover.
- ☐ 48th Services Squadron: Ext. 1787.
- ☐ Sexual harassment: 1-800-558-1404. This is not a free call from the United Kingdom.